

Parish of Newry

Sunday 11 December 2016
Third Sunday of Advent

John the Baptist is almost a New Testament figure; he is a kind of honorary member of the new community. The Church does not refer to Isaiah or Jeremiah or any of the great prophets as 'Saint', but we call John 'Saint John the Baptist'. Yet, as Jesus said to the crowd, "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Do you feel greater than John the Baptist? Few in history could equal him for fire and passion. Jesus said of him, equivalently, that he was the greatest man who ever lived. But membership of the new community does not depend, it seems, on the qualities that John had to such an exceptional degree. What does it depend on, then?

John's 'persona' was 100% adult male; he was the original Iron John, hard and demanding. He lived on the edge of society, not integrated with it and perhaps not integrated in himself. There are many like him, there always have been. It is a straightforward, two-dimensional image, lacking in depth and humour. The essential missing ingredient is paradox. There are Christian preachers (especially on TV) whose persona is exactly John's.

Kierkegaard (1813-1855) identified three stages in the spiritual development of a human being: the aesthetic, the moral, and the spiritual. The first (the stage of beautiful thoughts and feelings) runs aground after a time, and you grow (probably through crisis) into the second, the stage of responsibility and moral awareness.

But after struggling here a long time you come to know your own weakness and the ambiguity of your motives; you learn that it is impossible to be a moral person if you are attempting only to be a moral person. You realise that your religion has become self-righteous, judgmental, resentful, even hypocritical. This crisis opens you to deeper spiritual reality. When you can no longer disguise your failure, you learn the wisdom of failure; you learn the meaning of the Cross of Christ. God has to come to you from beyond all your efforts.

Jesus, like John, came from the desert and appeared at the edge of society. But unlike John, he came in and sat down with sinners and outcasts. He created a new kind of society in which the values of the old were inverted: success/failure, first/last, even death/life. If John had lived he would surely have embraced the new society and its paradoxes; he would not have run from Calvary as the others did; it was not in his nature to be a reed shaken by the wind. His raging fire would long since have been transformed into intense love, his judgments into compassion.

Fr Donagh O'Shea, O.P.,
www.goodnews.ie

Mass Times

The Cathedral of SS. Patrick & Colman, Hill Street

Sunday Mass Times:
Saturday Vigil : 6.00pm
Sunday : 8.30am, 10.00am,
12 noon, & 5.30pm
Weekday Mass Times :
Monday to Friday 8.30am,
Monday to Saturday
10.30am.

St. Brigid's Church, Rooney's Meadow

Saturday Vigil : 7.00pm
Sunday : 11.30am,
9.30am (po polsku)
Weekday Mass Times :
Monday, Wednesday &
Friday 7.00pm.

St. Mary's Church, Chapel Street

Saturday Vigil : 6.30pm
Sunday : 11.00am
Latin Mass : 9.00am
Weekday Mass Times :
Tuesday & Thursday
7.00pm.

St. Catherine's Church, Dominican Priory, Dominic Street

Saturday Vigil : 7.30pm
Sunday : 8.00am, 9.30am,
11.00am & 12.15pm
Weekday Mass Times :
Monday to Saturday 7.30am,
11.00am & 7.30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Cathedral: Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday
9.00am – 11.00am.
Thursday 9.00am – 9.00pm
Sunday 1.00pm – 5.15pm.
St. Catherine's: Blessed
Sacrament Chapel each day
8.00am to 8.00pm.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE PARISH OFFICE

All Baptisms, Marriages and appointments may be arranged by calling the Parish Office. A Priest is available in the Parish Office from Monday to Friday 1.00pm – 2.00pm and in the evening by appointment.

OFFICE HOURS AND CONTACT NUMBER FOR PARISH OFFICE

Opening Hours: 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday

Tel No: 028 302 62586

Email: office@newrycathedralparish.org

Website: www.newrycathedralparish.org



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INTRODUCTORY RITES

Congregation stands

**Entrance Hymn or
Entrance Antiphon**

Phil 4:4-5

**All: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.**

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

Priest: You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Priest: You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT

Priest: Let us pray.

Pause for silent prayer

Priest: O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Congregation Sits

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah **35:1-6. 10**

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,
let the wasteland rejoice and bloom,
let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil,
let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
they shall see the glory of the Lord,
the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,
steady all trembling knees
and say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.
Look your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy,
for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy,
everlasting joy on their faces;
joy and gladness will go with them
and sorrow and lament be ended.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10. R cf. Is 35:4

(R) Come, Lord, and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St James **5:7-10**

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

ACCLAMATION **Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

**All: Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**
Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11
All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

All: The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Congregation sits

HOMILY

Congregation stands

THE CREED

All: **I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow your head up to the words 'and became man')

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Congregation sits

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Procession

The gifts of bread and wine which will become the Lord's body and blood are brought to the altar.

The celebrant raises the host on the paten saying:

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

The celebrant pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

Priest: By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

The celebrant then raises the chalice above the altar and says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Bowing, the celebrant says quietly:

Priest: With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Then the celebrant washes his hands, saying quietly:

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, almighty Father.

All: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Priest: May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Congregation stands

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right and just.**

PREFACE (Advent I)

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

ACCLAMATION

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Congregation kneels

Priest: You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and + Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

Priest: The mystery of faith.

All: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Priest: Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs with Saint Patrick and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Francis our Pope and N our Bishop, the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world. To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Congregation stands

THE COMMUNION RITE

Priest: At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

All: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and for ever.**

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
All: **And with your spirit.**

The celebrant may add these or similar words.

Priest: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All make a sign of peace, according to local custom.

Priest: May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

All: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Congregation kneels

The celebrant says quietly:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Priest: May the Body of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

Priest: May the Blood of Christ keep me safe for eternal life.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Is 35:4

All: **Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.**

Purifying the chalice the celebrant says quietly:

What has passed our lips as food, O Lord,
may we possess in purity of heart,
that what has been given to us in time
may be our healing for eternity.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Congregation kneels

Priest: Let us pray.
We implore your mercy, Lord,
that this divine sustenance may cleanse us of our faults
and prepare us for the coming feasts.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace you have placed your faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich you with his blessing.

All: **Amen**

Priest: As you run the race of this present life,
may he make you firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.

All: **Amen**

Priest: So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at our Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.

All: **Amen**

Priest: And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All: **Amen**

*Then the celebrant, with hands joined and facing the
people, says:*

Priest: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

	CONFIRMATION			FIRST HOLY COMMUNION			FIRST CONFESSION		
SCHOOL	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	DATE	TIME	CHURCH	DATE	TIME	CHURCH
Ballyholland P.S.	1 st April	11.30am	Cathedral	13 th May	11.30am	St. Mary's	19 th January 2017	7.30pm	St. Mary's
Bunscoil	28 th April	6.00pm	Lurgan	27 th May	11.00am	St. Mary's	31 st January 2017	9.30am	St. Mary's
St. Clare's Abbey P.S.	29 th April	11.30am	Cathedral	6 th May	11.30am	St. Mary's	12 th January 2017	7.30pm	St. Mary's
St. Joseph's P.S.	8 th April	11.30am	St. Brigid's	6 th May	11.30am	St. Brigid's	23 rd November 2016	7.30pm	St. Brigid's
St. Patrick's P.S.	31 st March	6.00pm	St. Brigid's	13 th May	1.00pm	St. Brigid's	25 th November 2016	2.00pm	St. Brigid's
St. Ronan's P.S.	24 th March	6.00pm	St. Brigid's	13 th May	10.30am	St. Brigid's	1 st December 2016	7.00pm	St. Brigid's

P.I.P.S. Newry & Mourne Christmas Service of Remembrance, Hope & Healing for families & friends of loved ones lost through suicide takes place at Sandy Street, Presbyterian Church, Windsor Hill on Sunday 11th December at 4pm. Service includes: Memory Tree Ceremony, Candle Light Procession. All welcome. For further information Tel: 028 3026 6196 email: info@pipsnewryandmourne.org

ADVENT- Waiting in Joyful Hope

To help us prepare for the beautiful feast of Christmas there will be a time of prayer in St. Clare's Convent, Ashgrove Avenue on Tuesday 13th & 20th December at 7.30pm. All welcome.

St. Patrick's Primary School

St. Patrick's P.S. presents The Nativity Story – Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm in St. Brigid's Church.

St. Ronan's Primary School will be holding a Carol Service on Thursday 15th December at 7.00pm in St. Brigid's Church. Come and join us as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord. All welcome.

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
St. Joseph's Conference, Newry**

As Christmas draws near, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is aware that it can be a time of additional pressure on people who already face financial difficulties in their lives. The local Conferences of the Society do not wish to see people troubled by the financial burden of Christmas when they are available and willing to help in many different ways. The Society does not want anyone to wait and worry about how they will provide for Christmas but asks that they approach the Society as soon as possible. Whether you have children, are single or elderly or whatever your particular circumstances and needs the Society will do their best to assist. All requests for assistance will, as ever, be dealt with confidentially. You are welcome to send us your details, using the slip below.

Name.....

Address.....

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Please complete the above, place it in envelope and leave it at the S.V.D.P Shop, 30 Mill Street. We will be in touch as soon as possible.

Gaudete Sunday: 11 December 2016

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice'.

The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday and 'gaudete' means 'rejoice'. The Priest wears rose coloured vestments on this day in contrast to the violet or purple coloured vestments he wears on all the other days of Advent. We rejoice on this Sunday because we know that the birth of Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour, is near. Each year, on Gaudete Sunday, the children in Rome bring their figurines of the Infant Jesus to St. Peter's Square to be blessed by the Pope.

At all the Vigil and Sunday Masses on Gaudete Sunday the Celebrant will bless your Infant Jesus figurines or small cribs. Families are invited and encouraged to bring their Infant Jesus figurines or small cribs to one of the weekend Masses so that they can be blessed. The infant Jesus figurine is only placed in the family crib on his birthday, Christmas Day. What a wonderful way to remind us that Jesus is, and should always be, at the centre of our lives.

Congratulations to Deacon Damien Nejad who will be ordained a Priest Sunday 11th December at 3pm in St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny. Please remember him in your prayers.

Ballyholland P.S. Christmas Mass – Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm in the Cathedral. All welcome.

**Associate Knights of St. Columbanus
Rekindling faith in the Housebound**

The Youth branch of the Knights of St. Columbanus in Newry, the Associate Knights have launched a scheme to supply ill or housebound parishioners with Amazon Kindle tablet computers. This allows people to watch Mass from home via the church webcams. Application forms are available at all churches, so please if you or someone you know could benefit from this fill out a form and deliver or post it back to Newry Parish Office, Hill Street. We are always looking for help from 16-21 year old men, if you would like to help out find us on Facebook at facebook.com/Newry.Associates.

Recently Baptised – We welcome into our community

Holly Harper Hughes, 4 Shepherds Close
Alfie Michael Young, 6 Fifth Avenue
Jack David Shields, 12 Ardfreelin

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION
Sunday 4 December**

Parish Collection	£ 4726.72
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